

OVER WTOP RADIO

SATURDAY, 13 January 1962.

The Maritime Commission: There is something very mysterious about the manner in which the Maritime Commission placed the operation of the new atomic merchants vessel the Savannah in the hands of the States Marine Company. This was done under Eisenhower after a committee of experts recommended that a new atomic vessel be operated by the American President's Line instead the Savannah was put under the States Marine Lines which was the lowest on the list. Congressman Bonner of North Carolina has pointed out that the States Marine Line has used foreign agents abroad and foreign flag ships despite which it got this prize package. Congressman Bonner also points to the fact that John McCone then strong with the Eisenhower administration was then being made Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and that McCone was in partnership with the States Marine Line. McCone has now been nominated by Kennedy to be head of Central Intelligence and comes up for Senate confirmation next week.

The Maritime Commission: Some of the worse crack ups of liberty ships during and after the war were the ships built by the Henry Kaiser shipyard. The same Henry Kaiser to whom McCone awarded that quickie flying boxcar contract at three times the cost of Kaiser's competitor, the Fairchild Company at Hagerstown, Maryland.

Now a final prediction: Some people have wondered why I have written about the past operations of McCone nominated to be head of Central Intelligence. The reason is that Central Intelligence has been guilty of some terrible mistakes, the fiasco in Cuba, the sending of the U-2 over Russia just as Eisenhower was about to go to Paris and Russia. This seriously set back the peace of the world. John McCone has charm and determination, but was head of the West Coast Shipbuilding Company which made more money out of Uncle Sam during the war than any other executive now in Government. He also awarded his wartime partner, Henry Kaiser, with a quickie airplane contract at an exorbitant price, when he, McCone became undersecretary of the Air Force.

This is a record which the public has a right to know about, and which the Senate cannot ignore. Unfortunately Senators have developed a habit in recent years of confirming almost any name the President sends them, so here is my prediction: In the Armed Services Committee, Chairman Russell of Georgia will vot to confirm McCone as will Senator Jackson of Washington, and probably also Senator Symington of Missouri who is very kind-hearted. But I predict Senator Case of South Dakota who has saved more money on war contracts than any other single Senator will ask McCone some very important questions. I also predict that Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine who has great courage and Senator Glenn Beall of Maryland who also has courage will demand a careful investigation of McCone before he is confirmed.